

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/813,728
Reply to Office Action dated September 27, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 1 is hereby amended.

The amendment of claim 1, reciting that the injector for injecting a fuel into said intake passage portion from the upper side of a throttle valve, where the injector is attached to the air cleaner, and the throttle valve is incorporated in the intake passage portion, is supported by Figure 10 and page 19, lines 16-19.

Claim 1 was rejected as being clearly anticipated by JP7332208. Applicants traverse this rejection. Claim 1 requires that the "injector is disposed on a front side relative to the center line of said intake passage portion". JP7332208 teaches an upper injector that is disposed on the center line of the intake passage (see Abstract, lines 12-13). In contrast the injector of the claimed invention is disposed on a front side.

In a conventional system, such as JP7332208, where the injector is disposed on the center line of the intake passage portion, the bottom wall of a fuel tank must be set at a comparatively high position in order to obviate interference with the injector. In such a conventional system it is difficult to provide a fuel tank with sufficient capacity. See the Background of the Invention page 2, lines 4-11. In contrast, due to the injector location being on a front side relative to the center line of the intake passage portion, the current invention provides a larger capacity fuel tank.

Favorable reconsideration of claim 1 is requested.

Claims 2-4 were rejected as being unpatentable over JP7332208 in view of Nagasaka (US2002/0063004). Applicants traverse this rejection. Nagasaka does not remedy the deficiencies of JP7332208 as previously noted. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Nagasaka as applied to claims 2-4. Favorable reconsideration of claims 2-4 is requested.

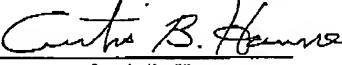
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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. No. 29,165, at (612)336-472.

Respectfully submitted,

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